

procure the best military equipment for the best value the taxpayer dollar can afford, we must preserve the competitive process. In today's global economy, that means we must not shy away from our allies' participation.

Air refueling is the key enabler to our global military might, and we need to get the competition for the KC-135 replacement program right. Otherwise, we will never know whether competition was true competition or whether our warfighters have received the best possible capability.

CALLING FOR ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, in the Hindu religion, Brahma, the Creator; Vishnu, the Preserver; and Shiva, the Destroyer exist simultaneously and represent the multiplicity of God.

Today, we are going to be called upon to determine which of the principles, Creator, Preserver or Destroyer, shall work through each of us. If we continue to pursue nuclear proliferation embodied in the nuclear agreement with India, we will be open to the principles of destruction. At this moment when world tensions are rising and violence is cycling higher, we need to take the direction of preserving the peace and creating a new opening through abolishing all nuclear weapons.

August 6, 2006, will mark the 61st anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima which obliterated the city and killed about 140,000 people. Today, 30,000 nuclear weapons remain in the world. Many nuclear weapons are deployed. Any use of nuclear weapons would be unthinkable devastation. The only way to prevent the use of nuclear destruction is to abolish all nuclear weapons.

To that end, I will be introducing legislation today.

REPARATIONS FOR VICTIM

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, it was described as "more than 2 hours in hell." Those are the only words a central Texas sheriff could utter about the brutal attack of an 18-year-old girl.

Driving home one night, she was run off the road by two illegals just fired from their jobs for showing up to work hung over. She was corralled just 2 miles from her house near Mexia, Texas, but she couldn't have been further from safety. They forced her into their vehicle, then drove around as they raped, beat and stabbed her numerous times. When they had finished their sinful crime, they tossed her bloody body in a ditch and left her for dead.

When she reached a house nearby after crawling over a half mile, she lay

on the porch and the woman inside heard her say, "I'm going to die." The woman who found her covered in blood said she would never as long as she lived get that look on her face out of her mind.

Javier Martinez of Mexico and Noel Hernandez of Honduras will have their day of judgment in a Texas courthouse very soon, but the two countries these outlaws come from should be held accountable and pay reparations to the victim of this assault.

And that's just the way it is.

IRAQI PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES CONGRESS

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I sat here before and listened to the speech of Prime Minister Al-Maliki of Iraq. Quite frankly, I was underwhelmed. I am glad that he condemned terrorism by al Qaeda in Iraq, but we heard not a word of condemnation about Hezbollah and their terrorism against Israel.

I guess, according to the Prime Minister, terrorism against Iraq is no good, but terrorism against Israel is acceptable. I am also sorry he didn't take the opportunity to set the record straight involving his criticism of Israel this week or to condemn the speaker of the parliament of Iraq and his vicious anti-Semitic and anti-Jewish diatribe and tirade earlier this week. Unfortunately, none of that was forthcoming.

If we are to take the Iraqi leadership seriously in condemnation of terror, they have to condemn terror wherever it rears its ugly head, against Iraq, against Israel, or against any other nation. Only then will I truly believe that they are democrats and care about democracy and really care about the war on terror.

IRAQ AND FREEDOM

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, this House in a joint session of Congress listened to the new Prime Minister of our ally, Iraq, earlier today. The Prime Minister outlined his plan for freedom and security for the Iraqi people and for a free, safe and secure Iraq.

As an ally, we in the United States have an obligation to see this through. We have an obligation to ensure freedom and democracy. However imperfect it may be, as freedom and democracy always is, we have an obligation to see that through in Iraq, today, tomorrow and for years to come.

Beyond that, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to note that the United States, Israel and Iraq have the same mutual enemy, and those are Islamic extremists, in our country, in Israel, in Iraq and around the world, and we have to fight together for freedom today, freedom tomorrow, freedom forever.

BIG OIL HAS ANOTHER GREAT QUARTER WHILE THE CONSUMER IS GOUGED AT THE PUMP

(Mrs. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Big Oil has another great quarter while the consumers are gouged at the pumps.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers are already pouring in. All week, Big Oil and Gas will tout their profits during the second quarter. The real question now is, will they break the records of the first quarter, more than \$16 billion just for the Big Three.

B-P announced its profits earlier this week, bringing in \$6.1 billion during the second quarter. We will hear the rest of the numbers later this week.

Mr. Speaker, America can do better. We have the technology. We have the willpower. But we have to work together. It is basically Democrats that actually have the answers on what we can do to reduce oil prices in this country. This isn't short term. It's long term. We need to work together. We need to get this done.

Consumers at home are hurting. Middle-income families are hurting when you have expensive oil on Long Island where I live, \$3.29, it has been that way for quite a while, and that is only for the economy fuel. It is raising our fuel prices. It is raising everything. And they wonder why the economy, which is supposed to be, quote, doing well, our middle-income families are not. They are hurting.

SMALL BUSINESS

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, this Congress needs to continue the tax relief and economic policies that have helped small businesses create new jobs and foster strong economic growth across our country. I have been pushing a five-point agenda to help small businesses succeed:

One, continue the tax cuts for small businesses, which we accomplished earlier this year by passing the Tax Relief Extension Reconciliation Act into law.

Two, we need to make health care costs more affordable for small businesses and their employees. The Senate, like the House, needs to pass legislation to create small business health plans that will lower their premiums by up to 30 percent.

Three, we need to level the playing field for small businesses. The Senate can help us do this by approving two of my bills that have been overwhelmingly passed in the House to help small businesses earn interest on their checking accounts and gain increased access to capital.

Four, the Senate, like the House, needs to vote to permanently end the death tax on small businesses and family farms.

Five, we need to stop excessive and redundant Federal regulations on small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to immediately consider my bill that has passed the Government Reform Committee and would help prevent Federal agencies from imposing unnecessary regulations that suffocate small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, let's fully demonstrate our commitment to small businesses by passing these legislative solutions to help small businesses in New York's Hudson Valley and all over the Nation.

TIME FOR A NEW DIRECTION IN IRAQ

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, sadly, the war in Iraq is escalating daily. In the first 6 months of 2006, more than 350 American soldiers were killed in action and over 2,400 wounded. This means the United States lost the equivalent of five battalions' worth of ground forces during the period Iraqi political leaders squabbled over how to form a government.

And while forming a government was a positive step, it has made little difference in the daily lives of most Iraqis. Violence has escalated and claims more and more Iraqi lives. According to the U.N., over 14,000 Iraqi civilians were killed in the first 6 months of 2006, including 5,800 in May and June alone. States of emergency, curfews and military operations have not stabilized the country. There are more insurgents, more foreign fighters and more attacks. The signs of sectarian and ethnic cleansing are everywhere. President Bush has said he is going to deploy more troops into Baghdad.

Mr. Speaker, 2006 was supposed to be a year of significant transition in Iraq. But the U.S. remains on the defensive, caught in a civil war.

Mr. Speaker, this war is a miserable failure. It is time for a new direction in Iraq.

□ 1230

SUPPORT OUR SCOUTS ACT

(Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the Boy Scouts of America is one of the most wholesome organizations in this Nation's history, which is why it has earned the Congressional Charter. The Scouts have provided a way for children from the inner city and the country to learn more about themselves, their environment and their role as citizens through active engagement in outdoor and service activities.

Unfortunately, the city of Philadelphia is considering a move that would

seriously hinder scouting in southeastern Pennsylvania. Philadelphia Mayor John Street has told the Cradle of Liberty Council, which serves 87,000 inner city and suburban Scouts, to either pay market value for or vacate the headquarters it has used rent-free since 1928.

Mayor Street has chosen to focus on the differences of opinion he has with the Boy Scouts, rather than embracing and fostering greater cooperation on the issues we can agree on. This is an unfortunate turn of events for the scouting community in my district and the Philadelphia region, especially when the city is in crisis; violent crime and drug use are at all-time highs.

I call on Mayor Street to work with the Scouts to work out an equitable solution to their dispute, and I call on my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 1337, The Support Our Scouts Act, which will reaffirm the Federal Government's commitment to scouting.

PREPAREDNESS FIRST ACT

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, America needs to be prepared. Whether it is for a commuter train attack or a hurricane, it is clear America must get serious about all hazards preparedness, and that is preparing for all emergencies, whether they are natural or manmade.

Today I am introducing the Preparedness First Act to authorize critical grant programs that our State and local governments already depend upon for all hazards emergency preparedness. The premise of this bill? To ensure that States and localities will have a basic level of preparedness so that they can protect their citizens, communicate with each other and work with the Federal Government during any type of emergency, from earthquakes to terrorist attacks.

Under this bill, all States would receive a base of preparedness funding. This would guarantee that the Federal Government would have an able partner in every State to coordinate preparedness activities. Additional resources would then be made available to address the unique risk and man-made disasters that are posed in each area.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and put all hazards preparedness first for all Americans.

ISLAMIST PRESENCE IN SOMALIA

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, recently the subcommittee on international terrorism and nonproliferation that I chair held a hearing on the growing Islamist terrorist threat in Somalia. The country's unsecured borders and proximity to the Arabian Peninsula

provide a potential transit point and safe haven for terrorists there. Especially worrying is the powerful presence of the Union of Islamic Courts, which took over Mogadishu last month.

This group is headed by a known associate of al Qaeda and aims to introduce Sharia law throughout Somalia. Mr. Speaker, we are living in an age in which threats in faraway places can hit us at home.

The events unfolding in Somalia mark a critical point in our struggle against Islamist terrorism. Afghanistan is the lesson. I remember those on Afghanistan that said that the Taliban offered stability in that country because the country was deeply divided.

I remember testifying that the Taliban and their support for terror training could lead to more World Trade Center-style attacks on America. That was 11 years ago. Now Somalia demands our focused attention.

IRAQI GOVERNMENT'S TROUBLING COMMENTS ON ISRAEL

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, do not think there was an epiphany this morning when the leader of Iraq, duly elected, met at the White House to say that he would join, his country would join with other Arab states condemning terror. You would have thought the word "terror" was invented this morning. The audacity for him to look at us and say, for those who are skeptical about the war on terror, there is nobody skeptical in this House, either side, about the war on terror.

But when his legislature condemns Israel, "we need to stop the Israeli criminal aggression," and they voted on that unanimously, you come into our house, as we would say in the Bronx, even though I am from New Jersey, and think that we are supposed to forget everything.

There is terror in Iraq, and there is terror in Israel. And if you think Hezbollah is the Guardian Angels, you are quite mistaken. And we need to understand what is going on in this House. Turn the country back around again. Sixty-five percent of the American people say we are going in the wrong direction, and we continued this morning.

CREATIVE FEDERALISM IN HEALTH CARE

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, everyone understands that we have a real challenge in health care with over 45 million Americans without adequate insurance coverage. And Washington is in a logjam with a national solution elusive.